



# PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2004)

(Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Department of Health – Board of Physical Therapy

☒ Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 04-07-173 ; or

☐ Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

☐ Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4).

☒ Original Notice

☐ Supplemental Notice to WSR \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Continuance of WSR \_\_\_\_\_

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject) WAC 246-915-100 – Approved physical therapy schools  
RCW 18.74.030 directs that applicants hold a baccalaureate degree in physical therapy from a school that has been approved by the board. The current rule adopts the educational standards for United States physical therapy programs established by the American Physical Therapy Association and has been in effect since the inception of the American Physical Therapy Association's accreditation process in 1985. The proposed rule is required to recognize and clarify the role of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, the division within the American Physical Therapy Association responsible for establishing educational standards and developing appropriate systems for outcome measurements within U.S. physical therapy education programs.

Hearing location(s): Department of Health

310 Israel Rd SE

Room 152

Tumwater, WA 98501

Submit written comments to:

Name: Kris Waidely, Program Manager

Address: 310 Israel Rd SE

Tumwater, WA 98501

e-mail [kris.waidely@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kris.waidely@doh.wa.gov)

fax (360)664-9077 by (date) November 5, 2004

Date: November 16, 2004 Time: 9:30 a.m.

Date of intended adoption: November 16, 2004

(Note: This is NOT the effective date)

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact

Kris Waidely, Program Manager by November 5, 2004

TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 236-4847

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: Physical therapy education and scopes of practice within countries outside the United States and Canada are significantly more restrictive and most often require the direct supervision of a physician. By recognizing the educational standards established by the American Physical Therapy Association, an organization responsible for the development of appropriate standards for the various elements of physical therapy practice within the United States, the board believes the goals and objectives for RCW 18.74.030 and RCW 18.74.060 have been met. All known United States physical therapy education programs currently hold accreditation status with the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Consumers of physical therapy services will only benefit from the licensure of qualified physical therapists whose level of training has been proven to be consistent with the functions and services that fall within the physical therapy scope of practice in this state. There are currently more than 200 physical therapy programs in this country. The Board reviews and acts on approximately 600 physical therapy applications each year. In the absence of a rule establishing the standards adopted by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, the Board could potentially be faced with the review of more than 200 physical therapy education programs every five years. According to the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, this process utilizes the expertise of hundreds of academicians and clinical instructors across the United States and can take up to six months. The Board of Physical Therapy is made up of four physical therapists and one consumer member, all essentially volunteers. Both the time factor and prohibitive costs involved in this process would make this alternative impossible to implement and would create lengthy, unreasonable delays in the application process. This would result in limited access to physical therapy services throughout the state.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.74.023

Statute being implemented: RCW 18.74.023

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Court Decision?

☐ Yes ☒ No

State Court Decision?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, CITATION:

DATE

August 30, 2004

NAME (type or print)

Kris Waidely

SIGNATURE

*Kris Waidely*

TITLE

Program Manager

## CODE REVISER USE ONLY

CODE REVISER'S OFFICE  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

OCT 1 2004

TIME

1050

WSR

04-20-053

AM  
PM

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:  
none

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Department of Health

☐ Private  
☐ Public  
☒ Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting..... Kris Waidely, Program Manager	310 Israel Rd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501	(360) 236-4847
Implementation.... Kris Waidely, Program Manager	310 Israel Rd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501	(360) 236-4847
Enforcement..... Kris Waidely, Program Manager	310 Israel Rd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501	(360) 236-4847

Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

☒ Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement.

A copy of the statement may be obtained by contacting:

Name: Kris Waidely  
Address: PO Box 47868  
Olympia, WA 98504-7868

phone (360) 236-4847  
fax (360) 664-9077  
e-mail [kris.waidely@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kris.waidely@doh.wa.gov)

☐ No. Explain why no statement was prepared.

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

☐ Yes A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name: Kris Waidely  
Address: PO Box 47868  
Olympia, WA 98504-7868

phone (360) 236-4847  
fax (360) 664-9077  
e-mail [kris.waidely@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kris.waidely@doh.wa.gov)

☒ No: Please explain: This rule change only clarifies existing standards. The rule does not impose any new standards.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 103B, filed 12/21/90, effective 1/31/91)

**WAC 246-915-100 Approved physical therapy schools.** The board adopts the standards of the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education for the approval of physical therapy schools. Individuals who have a baccalaureate degree in physical therapy or who have a baccalaureate degree and a certificate or advanced degree from an institution of higher learning accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education will be considered qualified under RCW 18.74.030(2).